

6. **Landowner Recognition and Public Education**

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- To properly recognize the important role played by both private land and the private landowner in the production and utilization of Montana's wildlife resource; and to educate and raise the awareness of both hunters and private landowners regarding the importance of maintaining a viable landowner/sportsman relationship.
1. Request a position for full-time work in the general area of landowner recognition and landowner/sportsman education. This person would be responsible for developing and administering the program and working with groups for implementation.
 2. Concentrate education efforts on adults with emphasis on eliminating the problem hunter.
 3. Design ways to encourage greater department/private sector/sportsman togetherness in programs related to landowner recognition and education.
 4. Properly recognize the contributions to sportsmen by large corporate landowners such as Burlington Northern and Champion International.

Following are examples of recognition-type activities that could be accomplished with redirection:

1. Expand the slogan campaign, i.e. "Ask First" to include bumper stickers, billboards, milk cartons, grocery bags, etc.
2. Place articles on landowner recognition in each issue of *Montana Outdoors*.
3. Expand our efforts in placing appropriate articles in existing agricultural magazines and newsletters.
4. Expand the information available at license dealers for hunters and landowners regarding how to get permission to hunt, liability, trespass, litter and other laws.
5. Print, each spring, an auction-type handbill with all of the new changes in rules and regula-

- tions that would be of interest to both sportsmen and landowners.
6. Spend more time at fairs, shopping malls, etc. with a display booth and information-dispensing operation. The effort would mean redirection; development of the display would cost a few hundred dollars.

Following are examples of recognition-type activities that would require a modest increase in funding:

1. Initiate an "Operation Respect" with special citations to be presented to landowners and hunters who go out of their way to do something special for landowners, hunters or wildlife.
2. Initiate a recognition program for individual and groups of landowners, working primarily with agricultural organizations and existing programs. Our participation could include everything from giving away subscriptions to *Montana Outdoors* and calendars to issuing a number of limited bronzes of grizzly bears.
3. Work with local sportsman clubs and assist them in sponsoring an "Ag Appreciation Day."
4. Investigate the merits of a scholarship fund in each county for graduating seniors interested in a resource management curriculum at a Montana college or university.

7. **Landowner/Sportsman Forum**

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- To pursue the possibility of a periodic landowner/sportsman forum to review the Department's Cooperative Landowner/Sportsman Program.

8. **Incentives for Habitat Enhancement**

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- To pursue financial incentives for wildlife habitat preservation and/or enhancement.



**Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

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**COOPERATIVE
LANDOWNER/SPORTSMAN
PROGRAM**

**Draft Proposal
January 15, 1985**



WORKING TOGETHER

Public ownership of America's fish and wildlife resources is firmly inbedded in law as well as the American lifestyle. Solutions to the problems created when this public resource occurs on privately owned land are complex. Historically, the hosting of fish, wildlife and sportsmen has been a courtesy extended by the landowner. Thus, considerable past effort has focused on addressing the special concerns expressed by private landowners. Increased economic pressures on agriculture and big game numbers in Montana have recently sharpened the interest in this landowner-sportsman relationship.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and

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Parks is interested in increasing its efforts addressing the concerns of landowners regarding wild game on their property and the impact of sportsman's activities. The goal of this effort would be to maintain the productive capability of private land to provide food, water, cover and space for wildlife and encourage landowners to continue to provide the associated recreational opportunities to the public.

Development of this program was initiated in mid-1983 with the appointment of a Department committee to generate ideas and formulate a tentative program. Following several internal reviews, the resulting program was discussed with a number of private landowners for their reaction and suggestions. Following further review, the program was explained at a joint meeting of an Ad Hoc Committee of landowners and sportsmen and the Fish and Game Commission in December of 1984 for final review, comments and suggestions.

The accompanying program outline summarizes the results of these collective efforts and represents the current direction of the Department's desire to enhance landowner-sportsman relations. The Department considers this program as a place to start; additional elements will be considered as they become desirable and feasible.

Many of the activities described in this proposal can be accomplished by redirection without additional funding. To fully implement all aspects of the proposal, an additional \$230,700 will be required each year; of this amount, \$146,000 is included in the Department's EPP request (Executive Planning Process).

1. Landowner Insurance for Accidentally Killed Livestock

INTENT

To provide certain landowners with an alternative to closing their land to hunting because of a concern for livestock which may be accidentally shot during the hunting season.

- 1. Landowners would be required to enroll in this program to be covered. To be eligible, a landowner must agree to allow some public hunting during the up-coming hunting season.
- 2. To be enrolled in the program, a property must be properly signed with signs provided by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- 3. It is our intent to have the insurance company investigate and make the determination in each case as to whether or not it is a legitimate claim.
- 4. It is our intent to reimburse the landowner for the full value of the loss with no limit on the number of claims an individual could file in any one year.
- 5. This program would be in effect during the regular hunting season, September through November.
- 6. This program would be administered and coordinated through the Helena Office.
- 7. The number of enrollees would be limited the first year to develop administrative procedures.
- 8. The Department would pay all insurance costs.

NOTE: The insurance company has not yet provided the details regarding premiums, claim pay-offs, etc. This program is contingent upon an insurance company being willing to underwrite the program.

2. Liability

INTENT

To increase public awareness of the protection afforded under current and any new laws.

- 1. Increase our public relations effort to increase public awareness of the current law, coordinating it with the navigability liability that will be addressed in the current legislative session.
- 2. Print handouts for both hunters and landowners spelling out the details of the law, listing hunters' and landowners' rights regarding the liability issued.
- 3. Draw attention to possible levels of liabilities for different types of land users, such as trespasser, licensee and invitee.

3. Trespass

INTENT

To publicize the current and any new laws and to expand the Department's authority for helping prevent trespass on private property.

- 1. Increase our public relation efforts to publicize the current law and any new laws.
- 2. Address the issue of increased Department authority for enforcement and what is required in the way of proper posting.
- 3. Support suspended hunting and fishing licenses for trespass violations.

4. Block Management Program

INTENT

To relieve the private landowner of the burden of administering the hunting season, thereby offering an incentive to keep some private lands open to hunting which would otherwise be closed.

- 1. Expand the number of experimental areas next year, trying to test a variety of situations. Keep the program small enough to ensure proper administration and evaluation.
- 2. Provide opportunities for "walk in" areas with the agency funding appropriate signing.
- 3. Incorporate the insurance program into the block management program.

- 4. Meet with potential landowners in an attempt to incorporate larger areas with more private landowners participating in the blocks than was achieved in 1984.
- 5. Consider the licenses/permits being valid only in the block management areas.
- 6. As much as possible, try to reduce the time that hunters spend on private property.
- 7. For each hunter participating in the program, provide a special handout in addition to rules and regulations. This handout should include hunter ethics, landowner relations issues, how to take precautions against the spread of weeds, etc.

5. Game Damage

INTENT

To increase our capability to respond to problems and resolve them.

- 1. Request a position to coordinate all aspects of game damage including programming, budgeting, policy development, material procurement and delivery, research programs, etc.
- 2. Develop a consistent, state-wide policy for addressing game damage problems.
- 3. Publish informational brochures or a self-help manual that will provide private landowners with information on techniques which would help prevent and solve game damage situations on their land.
- 4. Initiate a limited research program to evaluate the comparative merits and costs of different approaches to solving game damage problems, including electric fencing, intercept feeding, herding, egg treatment, etc. A special thrust of this research program should deal with the problems associated with alfalfa seed fields and other standing crops.
- 5. Design hunting seasons that do a better job of removing the female harvest quicker with fewer trips necessary by individual hunters.